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## CANVASS FOR MERGER BEGUN

Thirty-Six Persons Will Do Quick Work for the Bell Telephone System.

With all cities in the state except Clarksburg and Grafton canvassed and with eighty or ninety per cent of the people of the canvassed cities in favor of merging the Consolidated telephone system with the Bell, thirty-six canvassers began work here Wednesday morning for the Bell. They hope to complete the same by Saturday.

The Central District Telephone Company recently received the unanimous approval of the city council, which granted it a franchise within the corporate limits of the city to lay underground cables and to make such other improvements as its business operations necessitated. Officials of the company last night announced that great things were in store for Clarksburg during the coming year. "We expect to spend approximately \$100,000 in this city making improvements and increasing our plant," said one official, who from his talk felt sure that Clarksburgers would be favorable to the consolidation of the two systems.

The Bell building, which was completed several months ago in this city, is said to be one of the most finely equipped in the country. It was planned and designed to keep pace with the growth of the city and the increase of patronage. The officials of the company last night said that they were not sure whether or not the switchboards would be added to or the building increased, but they gave every assurance that a plant would be maintained that would give adequate service to all its patrons.

The purpose is to spend the greater part of the \$100,000 in laying an underground system here and improving switchboards.

The cities which voted in favor of consolidating the two telephone systems were: Fairmont, Wheeling, Morgantown, Weston, Sutton, Sistersville, Mannington, Buckhannon and Parkersburg.

## GROWING HOPES

(Continued from page 1.)

first applauding one rally and then cheering another.

There was applause when the speaker referred to the part German immigrants had taken in founding and preserving the nation. More applause greeted a similar reference to Ireland. His mention of England and France passed by without demonstration.

Temporary officers are approved on motion of A. O. Eberhard, of Minnesota.

On motion of Senator Smoot the roll is called for nominations of the committee on credentials.

The convention adjourned at 1:25 until 11 a. m. tomorrow.

## HARDING MAKES PLEA FOR A PARTY REUNION

(BY ASSOCIATED PRESS) CHICAGO, June 7.—With a plea for party reunion, for reconsecration rather than recommitment, United States Senator Warren G. Harding, of Ohio, in his address as temporary chairman opened the Republican national convention here today.

Asserting that the country was "wearied afresh by a disappointing and distressing Democratic administration," and was calling for Republican relief the speaker, before undertaking to discuss political issues, appealed to the delegates to forget the differences which divided the party in 1912.

Referring to the administration's foreign policy in the European war Senator Harding declared that it had spoken with more rhetoric than resolution. Mexican negotiations he described as the greatest fiasco in American foreign relations. He paid tribute to Americanism of foreign birth with brief reference to the few zealots who would impugn the nation's neutrality and urged a fraternalism of American republics under the Monroe doctrine. Advocating adequate national defense he charged the Democratic party with having interrupted Republican naval construction and he criticized the army reorganization bill. He also attacked the administration shipbuilding bill, the effort made to extend independence to the Philippines, and made a plea for a return to the protective tariff.

"We did not do very well for making for harmony the last time we met," the chairman said in his appeal for harmony. "The country has regretted, let us forget—and make amends to our country. We did not divide over fundamental principles, we did not disagree over a national policy. We split over methods of party procedure and preferred personalities. Let us forget the differences, and find new inspiration and new compensation in an united endeavor to restore the country."

"Republican principles are in a vast majority in this country—when the banners of harmony are unfurled. We have witnessed the comeback of our party in various states. We

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have seen the re-enlistment of those who believe in Republican doctrines, and victory has followed and rejoicing has attended. No apology has been asked, no forswearing required. This is not the time for recrimination. It is the day of reconsecration.

"Rededicating here and now the Republican party to the progress and glory of the republic, let us bury party professed with the administration which our differences put in power. I do not believe there is a really reactionary Republican bearing credentials to this convention. If there is, he will depart after our deliberations, solely and proudly a Republican, with heart aglow with the party spirit of 1916. And the welcome delegate who emphasizes his progressivism, is expected to do his part in making our party a reflex of the best thought and best intent of sincere commitment to the uplift and progress of the American people, thereby strengthening party purpose instead of magnifying individual belief, and he, too, will find new rejoicing in being a Republican. No party can endure which is not progressive."

The world at war, preparedness and America's foreign relations served as the basis for the senator's first discussion of the issues. The enormity of the war in Europe, the tidal wave of distress and disaster, new wonders and new hindrances in commerce and utterly changed economic conditions, and these have attended embarrassment in American foreign relations, he said, "as difficult as the individual citizen experiences whose every neighbor is involved in deadly quarrel."

"Everything is abnormal except the depleted condition of the federal treasury, which is characteristic of Democratic control," he said, "and the facility of the administration for writing varied notes without effective notice." Amid these conditions, America, he asserted, had been singled out for leadership among the neutral powers, "but the administration at Washington spoke with more rhetoric than resolution, and we came to realize that the warring powers soon came to know that the official American voice lacked the volume of determined expression that once demanded international heed, and we lacked the strength and confidence in our own defense."

In the discussion of foreign relations the temporary chairman made particular reference to Americanism, to the course with Mexico and with Europe. Beginning with Americanism he traced it back to independence days when there were Americans from Great Britain, from Germany, from France and from other European who made a common cause. Since that time, he said, America's gates had swung inward to the foreign-born and "they are an inseparable and important and valued part of our American citizenship, and the few zealots of any origin who violate our neutrality do not, and cannot, impugn the loyalty of the American patriotism of that great body which adds to the swelling chorus of 'My Country, 'tis of Thee, Sweet Land of Liberty'."

Expressing reluctance to speak of the division of American sentiment relating to foreign affairs, Senator Harding discussed briefly the Mexican problem. "It must be said, for the truth's sake and clear understanding, we have hungered in vain for that unflinching Americanism at Washington which is needed to exalt the American soul," he declared. "There is no geographic modification of American rights. They are the same in Mexico that they are on the high seas, the same in Europe that they are in Asia, and are sacred everywhere, and the American spirit demands their fullest protection."

"Whatever the ultimate solution may be, history will write Mexico as the title to the humiliating recital of the greatest fiasco in our foreign relations. Uncertainty, instability, Mexican contempt and waning self-respect will be recorded in every chapter, and the pitiable story of sacrificed American lives and the destruction of lawfully-held American property will emphasize the mistake of policy of watchful waiting and wobbling warfare."

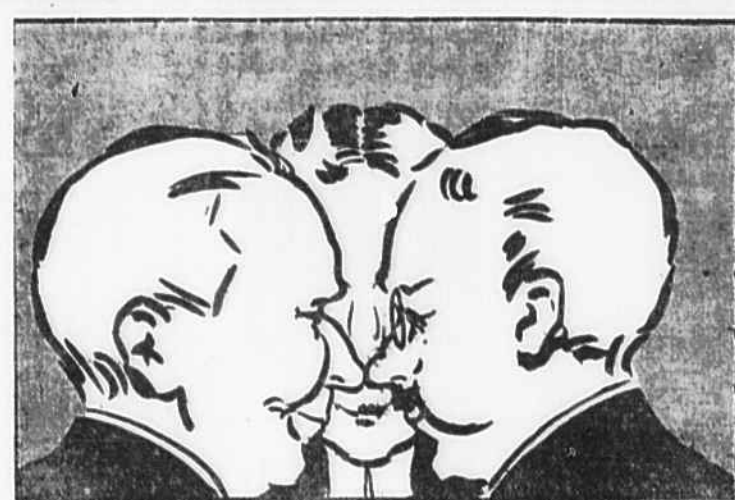
"Under the pretext of non-interference the Democratic administration miserably meddled. In the name of peace that same administration encouraged revolution, and the cost of American sacrifices was charged to needless war on Huerta, where the real American expenditure required only the voice of authority demanding protection to American rights. The unbiased critic will recite that the Democratic administration first coddled Vilas as a patriot, then chased him as a bandit."

Respecting America's course with Europe the temporary chairman asserted that no political party could draw a "variable chart for our ship of state amid Europe's warring ambitions."

"Justice," he continued, "points the way through the safe channel of neutrality. There are dangers, seeming or real, looming on every side, but we should feel secure along the course marked by international law and our own conscientious conviction of American rights. 'Straight ahead' shall be the command, and when peace comes the sober judgment of the world will exalt us ever higher and higher as a people strong in heart and noble in the espousal of justice and justice's humanity. In that worldwide respect and confidence which needs only to be preserved, we shall have a lofty place in the great reconstruction, and we reasonably may hope to see this mighty republic again ministering to the reconciliation of peace and all its precious blessings."

In connection with foreign affairs the senator also discussed widened relationships of the United States declaring that "is this government is to urge the world's attention to international justice and to become the agency of a progressive civilization it must assume the responsibilities of influence and example and accept the burdens of enlarged participation. The cloistered life is not possible to the potential man or the potential nation. Moreover, the Monroe doctrine, stronger for a century's maintenance, fixes an obligation of new-world sponsorship and old-world relationship. Our part must not be dictatorial, it must be trusted leadership in a fraternity of American republics."

The senator declared America had been negligent concerning its own defense and had been dwelling in fan-



## Teddy, Hughes, Wilson, Ford, Or a Dark Horse--Which?

Every Man Will Be Admitted and Privileged to Vote For His Man

AT THE

## National Convention

OF THE

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pled rather than real security and should heed the "warning in bleeding Europe." Republicans, he said, believed in adequate national defense. The Democratic party, he insisted, interrupted when the Republicans were building to high rank among the naval powers.

"I shall not say that it is ours to have the greatest navy in the world," said the senator, "but noting the elimination of distance and the passing of our onetime isolation, we ought to have a navy that fears none in the world, and can say anytime anywhere—these are American rights and must be respected."

"There are manifest differences about our developments for military defense," he continued. "The president made a trip from the coast to the valley of the Missouri to tell the American people the need of preparedness. It might have been more seemly to tell the story to Congress, for that body was in session and empowered to act, and seemingly ever ready to testify obedience. However, Congress undertook to provide an army for defense and the majority wobbled between pacification and preparedness until the Republican minority in the Senate put something real in the pending measure. We Republicans made a rational response to the call of the land, but Democratic insufficiency and inefficiency are recorded in the conference-amended act, and a federal nitrate plant to supply powder to the patriots and pap to the paternalists and federal fertilizer to the farmers in competition with private enterprise is the great constructive offering of a Democratic majority."

"No one," the senator said, "disputes a temporary prosperity in our land today. But it is sectional in its factory aspect, abnormal in its fevered rush, fetitious in its essentials, and perverting in its tendency. Worse, it is the gold sluiced from the river of blood, poured out by the horrifying sacrifice of millions of our fellowmen. God forbid that we should boast a prosperity wrought in such waste of human life. We had rather rejoice in the prospect of peace."

Discussing the Democratic party briefly the senator said it had "proclaimed the sacredness of its pledges and then profaned them;" that it had "espoused the freedom of the seas and wrought only the freedom of the Panama canal," and had "professed economy and is staggered by its own extravagance." He attacked the shipping bill because of its government ownership feature and the attempt of Democratic forces to extend independence to the world, to the Philippine people and ourselves.

Senator Harding concluded with a laudation of Americanism, which he said "begins at home and radiates abroad. The Republican conception gives the first thought to a free people and a fearless people, and bespeaks conditions at home for the highest human attainment. We be-

lieve in American markets for American products, American wages for American workmen, American opportunity for American genius and industry, and American defense for American soil. American citizenship is the result of American citizenship, and we believe our policies make for a fortunate people for whom moral, material and educational advancement is the open way the glory of our progress continues. The answered aspirations of a new world civilization acclaim. We have taken the ideal form of popular government and applied the policies which had led a continent to the altars of liberty and glorified the republic. We have jus-

tified pride and fortified hope. We need only to preserve and defend, and go unflinchingly on. Power is the guarantor of peace and conscience the bulwark of everlasting right. Verily, it is good to be an American. And we may rejoice to be Republicans."

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